

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /059 W
-----015012 301850Z /46

P 301715Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8239

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5045

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CO, US
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: FY 78 FMS FINANCING
FOR COLOMBIA

REF: (A) STATE 120316, (B) BOGOTA 0596, (C) STATE 012271

1. ALTHOUGH BOGOTA WAS NOT AN ACTION ADDRESSEE IN REF A, THE
EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING THIS MESSAGE DUE TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
REGARDING FY 78 FMS FINANCING FOR COLOMBIA (REF B).

2. THE LOSS OF 26 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS CREDITS FOR COLOMBIA
IN FY 77 WAS DUE TO U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS IN WASHINGTON.
THE EARLY PROVISION OF FY 78 CREDITS WAS A PARTIAL AND INTERIM
SOLUTION TO A CONTINUING, SERIOUS PROBLEM. THE COLOMBIAN ARMED
FORCES (CAF) NOW ADVISES US THAT, BASED ON THEIR ORIGINAL UNDER-
STANDING, THEY HAVE MADE PRELIMINARY PLANS TO ALLOCATE 29 MILLION
DOLLARS IN EXPECTED FY 78 CREDITS. THE EXTENT OF THEIR EXPECTA-
TIONS IS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR ANNOUNCED PROCUREMENT PLAN WHICH
FOLLOWS:

A. ARMY	US\$ 14,500,000.
(1) GROUND VEHICLES	US\$ 7,278,418.
(2) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT	366,580.
(3) QUARTERMASTER EQUIPMENT	1,091,168.
(4) ENGINEER EQUIPMENT	5,218,254.

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(5) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	545,580.
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B. NAVY	US\$ 5,800,000.
(1) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT	US\$ 1,330,000.
(2) SMALL CRAFT	470,000.
(3)	
EQUIPMENT FOR MARINE CORPS	3,000,000.

(4) DEBT PAYMENT, TRANSFERRED SHIP 1,000,000.

C. AIR FORCE US\$ 8,700,000.

(1) EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT US\$ 2,000,000.

(2) TACTICAL SUPPORT AIRCRAFT 6,000,000.

(3) AIR GROUND COMMUNICATIONS 700,000.
EQUIPEMTN

3. THE GOC REACTION, IF WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE FULL 29 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH IT EXPECTS, WILL BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE- PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF THE CAF WHICH ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THESE CREDITS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR MODEST PROGRAMS. THE PROCUREMENT OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT ALREADY HAS BEEN STRETCHED OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD AND CANNOT BE DELAYED FURTHER WITHOUT SERIOUSLY AFFECTING CAF OPERATIONS. COLOMBIA'S SMALL DEFENSE BUDGET IS DRAWN IP WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT 29 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS CREDITS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FY 78. WE COULD NOT EXPECT THE GOC TO ACCEPT SUCH A LOSS CAMLY AND PHOLOSOPHICALLY AS A MERE BUREAUCRATIC MISTAKE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO PROVIDE THE FULL 29 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 78 CREDITS. IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, WE MUST BE PREPARED SOON TO ADVISE THE GOC OF THE AMOUNT WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE NOW AND TO PRESENT IT WITH A DEFINITE PLAN FOR PROVIDING THE REMAINING FUNDS EARLY IN FY 79 IN ADDITION TO THE 19 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS CREDITS
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PROPOSED IN THE CPD. WE AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT THE 29 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 78 CREDITS ARE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO COLOMBIA AND TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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